

STUDIES IN THE SENECEONEAE (ASTERACEAE). IX.

A NEW GENUS, DRESSLERO'THAMNUS.

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In the process of reviewing the Central American species of Pentacalia Cass. material of the recently described Senecio angustiradiatus Barkley of Panama was examined. The species has the habit of Pentacalia and seems to be related, but a number of distinctive characters were noted by Barkley (1975) that discourage inclusion in that genus. The apparently unique filiform almost whiplike ray flowers were the basis for the species name. Also, the species has prominent stipitate stellate hairs on the stems, leaves, inflorescence and involucre. The receptacle is unusual in the tribe by the development of many long setae forming dense chaff. More subtle but significant distinctions are the prominent retrorse projecting cells on the tails of the anthers, the small but distinct apical coma on the tip of the disk style and the more numerous extremely small spines on the pollen. The texture of the involucre bracts is thinner than seen in most members of the Senecioneae including Pentacalia.

One of the most striking features of the Panamanian species is the stipitate stellate hairs. Stellate hairs are of erratic occurrence in the Asteraceae being found in many tribes including the Senecioneae. Aequatorium, a genus of the northern Andes recently segregated from Senecio by Nordenstam (1978), is also characterized by stellate hairs, but these have shorter and more irregular branches. The Nordenstam genus is credited with continuous stigmatic surfaces on the style branches, has a more shrubby habit and has the heads in rounded pyramidal terminal inflorescences. These and other details of pubescence and floral structure indicate that there is no close relation to the Barkley species.

The Panamanian species is here regarded as related to but strikingly distinct from Pentacalia. The small apical coma on the style, while one of the least striking distinctions, is nevertheless significant. It represents a separate occurrence of the trait in a group that is otherwise notable in the tribe for its absence.

The species is best treated as an isolated undescribed genus from an area whose potential for endemic elements is only recently being appreciated. The genus is named here for the collector of the type specimen, Dr. Robert D. Dressler of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute on Barro Colorado Island.

Dresslerothamnus H. Robinson, genus nov. Asteracearum (Senecioneae).

Plantae scandentes in caulibus foliis pedicellis et bracteis involucri stipitate stellate pilosae. Caules carnosi in sicco irregulariter rimosi eburnei. Folia alternata breviter distincte petiolata; laminae ovato-ellipticae vel ellipticae in sicco integrae leniter anguste revolutae, nervis secundariis pinnatis utrinque ca. 4. Inflorescentiae axillares paniculatae. Squamae involucri 8-10 tenuiter papyraceae rubrescentes apice acuminatae; receptacula dense longe setifera. Flores radii ca. 8, limbis filiformibus; flores disci 10-15; corollae flavae, lobis lanceolatis triplo longioribus quam latioribus; filamenta in parte superiore in cellulis inferioribus laxiora; thecae longe caudatae, caudices retrorse papilloso, cellulis endothecialibus elongatis, parietibus verticalibus et transversalibus minute noduliferis; appendices antherarum ovato-oblongae apice rotundatae; rami stylorum in apicem annulate fimbriati centraliter breviter comales, lineis stigmataceis duplicibus; achaenia prismatica glabra ca. 8-costata; carpodia breviter cylindrica superne leniter delimitata, cellulis plerumque quadratis plerumque 15-35 μ latis; setae pappi ca. 2-seriatae superne 30-40 μ latae apice leniter incrassatae. Grana pollinis ca. 30 μ in diametro perminute spinulosa.

Type species: Senecio angustiradiatus Barkley

At present only the single species is known.

Dresslerothamnus angustiradiatus (Barkley) H. Robinson, comb. nov. Senecio angustiradiatus Barkley, Annal Missouri Botanical Garden 62 (4): 1263. 1975 (1976).

Literature Cited

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- Nordenstam, B. 1978. Taxonomic studies in the tribe Senecioneae (Compositae). Opera Botanica 44: 1-83.